REMARKS

Amended claim 3 recites the limitations of determining that a first packet fragment associated with a first packet is valid by matching a first checksum included in the first packet fragment with a second checksum included in a second packet fragment stored in the reserved buffer space. None of the references cited by the Examiner in the Final Office Action teaches or suggests these limitations.

The Examiner admits that Malagrino, Robotham and Natanson do not teach or suggest these limitations and relies on the disclosure in Bilic for the relevant teachings. Bilic teaches a technique for reassembling one or more received packets into a frame of data. According to this reference, upon receiving a packet via the network, a processor examines the IP header associated with the packet to determine if the packet is associated with a particular frame. If so, then the processor stores the packet until all the packets associated with that particular frame are received. Once all the packets of the particular frame are received, the processor reassembles the packets into the particular frame. To ensure that the reassembled frame is valid, the processor computes the checksum of the <u>frame</u> and determines whether the computed checksum matches the checksum included in the header of the frame (<u>see</u> Bilic at column 8, lines 48-53).

In the Office Action, the Examiner equates the packets and the frame in Bilic to the claimed first packet fragment and the claimed first packet, respectively. However, importantly, the checksum included in Bilic is computed for the entire frame once the frame has been reassembled. In contrast, claim 3 expressly recites determining that the first packet fragment, itself, is valid. Further, nowhere in Bilic are the specific limitations of matching a first checksum included in the first packet fragment with a second checksum included in a second packet fragment stored in the reserved buffer space taught or suggested.

As the foregoing illustrates, none of the cited references, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests each and every limitation of claim 3. Therefore, these references cannot render obvious claim 3 or claims 5-10 and 28, dependent thereon. For this reason, Applicants submit that claims 3, 5-10 and 28 are in condition for allowance.
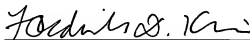
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Independent claims 11 and 23 recite limitations similar to those discussed in conjunction with claim 3. Therefore claims 11 and 23 are allowable for at least the same reasons as allowable claim 3. The remaining claims depend on either allowable claim 11 or allowable claim 23, and are, therefore, also in condition for allowance.

In addition to the foregoing, dependent claim 28 recites the limitations of generating an address resolution table (ART) index for an address resolution table entry based on information stored in the first packet, wherein the address resolution table entry stores a media access control (MAC) address and MAC layer attributes associated with the first packet. None of the cited references teaches or suggests these limitations.

In the Office Action, the Examiner cites only Natanson for teaching these limitations and admits the other cited references do not disclose these teachings. Specifically, the Examiner cites a portion of Natanson where the MAC source address extracted from a received frame of data is used as an index to the address resolution table (see Natanson at column 14, lines 40-43). However, neither this part of Natanson or any other part of Natanson discloses generating an address resolution table (ART) index for an address resolution table entry based on information stored in the first packet, as recited in claim 28.

As the foregoing illustrates, none of the cited references, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests each and every limitation of claim 28. For these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 28 and claim 8, dependent thereon, are in condition for allowance independent of the reasons set forth above in conjunction with allowable claim 3.

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